

## **I-81 Freight Capacity & Connections Letters of Commitment & Support**

### Letters of Financial Commitment:

1. Maryland Transportation Secretary Jim Ports
2. Washington County Board of County Commissioners

### Elected Officials:

3. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan
4. Maryland Congressional Delegation
5. Sen. Manchin (WV)
6. Congressman Mooney (WV)
7. Washington County County Administrator
8. Del. Wivell – Washington County State Delegation
9. Del. Mike McKay – Washington/Allegany/Garrett Co.
10. Sen. Paul Corderman – Washington County

### Local and State Agencies

11. Berkley County Development Authority
12. City of Hagerstown
13. City of Martinsburg
14. Franklin County Planning Department, PA MPO
15. Maryland Department of Commerce
16. Washington County Airport HGR
17. Washington County Department of Business Development
18. Washington County Board of Company Commissioners Letter of Support

### Companies, Organizations, and Associations

19. AAA Mid-Atlantic
20. AC&T
21. Bowman
22. Community Action Council (Hopewell Express Provider)
23. Cumberland Valley Business Alliance
24. Dahbura Family Limited Partnership
25. Fiserv (formerly First Data)
26. Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC)
27. Greater Hagerstown Committee (GHC)
28. Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (HEPMO)
29. Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area
30. HUB Labels
31. I-81 Corridor Coalition
32. Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce
33. Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (and Western MD Chapter)
34. Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA)
35. Maryland Transportation Commission
36. Meritus Health
37. Michael Langer Company
38. New Heights Industrial Park
39. Potomac Edison (First Energy)
40. PREIT/Valley Mall
41. Visit Hagerstown
42. Volvo North America
43. Washington County Chamber of Commerce
44. Washington County Community Coalition

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top one percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

I urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project and award the requested funds. The application reflects a strong partnership between the State of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. The MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is prepared to commit \$15.26 million, the required grant funding match. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Page Two

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Heather Murphy, MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Director, at 410-865-1275 or by email at [hmurphy@mdot.state.mnd.us](mailto:hmurphy@mdot.state.mnd.us). Ms. Murphy will be happy to assist you. Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JF Ports, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James F. Ports, Jr.  
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, OPCP, MDOT

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Page Three

bcc: Ms. Samantha Biddle, Chief of Staff, MDOT  
Ms. Pilar Helm, Director, Office of Government Affairs, MDOT  
Mr. Mark Howard, Federal Legislative Manager, MDOT SHA  
Mr. Samuel Kahl, Deputy Director of Policy and Government Relations, MDOT SHA  
Mr. R. Earl Lewis, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Policy, Planning, and Enterprise Services, MDOT  
Ms. Michelle Martin, Deputy Director, OPCP, MDOT  
Mr. Sean Powell, Deputy Secretary of Operations and Homeland Security, MDOT  
Tim Smith, P.E., Administrator, MDOT SHA  
Mr. Jeff Stockdale, Federal Legislative Officer, MDOT  
Richard Y. Woo, Ph.D., Director, Office of Policy and Research, MDOT SHA



Jeffrey A. Cline, *President*  
Terry L. Baker, *Vice President*  
Krista L. Hart, *Clerk*



Wayne K. Keefer  
Randall A. Wagner  
Charles A. Burkett

100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740-4735 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201  
WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET

May 17, 2022

Mr. James F. Ports, Jr.  
Transportation Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Ports:

I am writing to formally request the State's submission of its application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project to fund Interstate, Phase 2 under the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant program.

Improvements to Interstate 81 remain a high priority of the County, recognizing the benefit to local businesses and citizens, along with the potential for future economic development in the area. Furthermore, the County understands that a commitment of local funding will enhance our grant application.

In 2019, The Board of County Commissioners voted to provide \$1,000,000 of local funding support to match a successful INFRA grant award for this project. The County is reaffirming this commitment and is hopeful that this local investment combined with the State's continued support and partnership in these efforts will result in a successful grant application.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Jeffrey A. Cline, President



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for funding from the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity. These funds will be used to advance critical state and national development and infrastructure objectives associated with two vital projects:


**The MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA), I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project:** The MDOT SHA, in partnership with Washington County, Maryland, is seeking grant funding to improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along I-81, a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top one percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. The highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

**The MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA), *Maryland Investment to Support Supply-Chain Infrastructure to Obtain Net-Zero (MISSION) Project at the Port of Baltimore:*** The MDOT MPA is seeking grant funding to add a third berth that will serve 50-foot draft Ultra Large Container Vessels at Seagirt Marine Terminal. In addition to expanded berth capacity, the MISSION Project includes the densification and electrification of the container yard and the installation of a new export grain facility, which will benefit the agricultural industry in the Mid-Atlantic and Ohio Valley regions. The Port of Baltimore is a critical international gateway that connects the region to global suppliers and markets. Maryland's Port plays an integral role as an economic generator and job creator, maintaining our nation's supply chain and moving vital goods to industries and consumers. The MISSION Project recognizes the synergy between environmental compliance, community engagement, effective cost management, and operational

efficiencies at the Port of Baltimore. In doing so, the MISSION Project will attract new ocean carrier services, improve the supply chain, and create over 7,060 new jobs, generating an additional \$632 million in personal income.

I strongly support these grant applications and urge you to award the requested funds to these vital, transformative projects. Thank you for your time and consideration of these important applications.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan  
Governor

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express our full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project aims to provide equitable access to jobs and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally-significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year, with the Maryland portion alone carrying more than 19,400 trucks per day, a volume that falls within the top one percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume is expected to increase with the growth of logistic companies in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project has the potential to provide a boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The potential benefits to be realized from this project include increased freight access and connectivity, expansion of critically-needed truck parking, reduced traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We request your full consideration of this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County,

and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come, safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

/s/  
David Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

/s/  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/  
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress

18 May 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

The **Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)** recently provided information regarding their **I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project** proposal for the **U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL)** grant offering. I am pleased to lend my support to the Maryland Department of Transportation's worthwhile proposal.

This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor. The I-81 Corridor no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per year.

As an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, this project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support substantial existing economic activity, including jobs, freight and additional opportunities that will be possible with greater accessibility to the populations in this four-state region.

I truly appreciate your time and efforts in reviewing the Maryland Department of Transportation proposal and this corresponding letter of support. If I can be of any further assistance please contact my Charleston office (304)342-5855.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III



FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
AND CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4802**

May 13, 2022

CHARLESTON OFFICE:  
405 CAPITOL STREET  
SUITE 306  
CHARLESTON, WV 25301

MARTINSBURG OFFICE:  
300 FOXCROFT AVENUE  
SUITE 101  
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401  
(304) 264-8810

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2228 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2711

<http://mooney.house.gov>

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

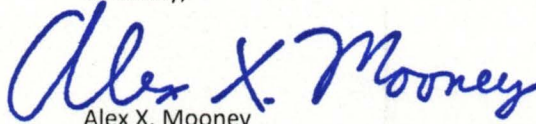
Please accept this correspondence indicating my strong support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural Appalachian region. The project also provides equitable access to jobs and improved capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers that are critical components of the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1 percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Furthermore, the highway is a critical component of the nation's supply chain, providing for the delivery of essential items in our region and throughout the country.

An investment in this project will not only support thousands of existing jobs located along the corridor but will also provide for continued employment growth that will be accessible to the most challenged populations in the four-state region including adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also improve freight access and logistical connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking availability, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. It also is part of an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor that provides connection to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private entities throughout the region. Many of my constituents travel this corridor on a regular basis and these proposed improvements will benefit them as well as many of our businesses and industries located along this corridor in West Virginia. This investment for our region will help to ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement; safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America INFRA Grant Program – I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections INFRA application and the ongoing effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to seek other funding sources to advance the timeline to widen I-81 in Maryland to six lanes along the 12-mile section between West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

MDOT SHA, in collaboration with Washington County, is seeking this grant to bridge the gap in construction funding for a project to address critical safety and freight improvements by expanding capacity and improving interchanges along this designated freight corridor. The I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project includes a much-needed widening and upgrade of an approximately four-mile section of I-81 from Exit 1 (Williamsport) to Exit 5 (Halfway Boulevard). The Maryland portion of I-81 carries more than 20,000 trucks per day, and this project will increase operational capacity and position the corridor to serve as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades. In addition to creating new capacity, the I-81 project will improve safety by reconstructing several interchange ramps to create safer merging and exiting.

Thank you for your consideration of the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections INFRA grant application. If you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (240) 313-2202.

Sincerely,

John M. Martirano, Esq.  
County Administrator





THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
WASHINGTON COUNTY DELEGATION

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter as an indication of our full support for Washington County's application for the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County grant funding requests for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This critical project is needed to improve operational capacity, and address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural Appalachian region.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your sincerest consideration of this request for INFRA grant funding to our Western Maryland region. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Wivell", is positioned above the printed name.

Delegate William Wivell  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Washington County Delegation Chairman

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1C*  
Allegany and Washington Counties

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Safety and Administration

Capital Budget

Oversight Committee on Personnel

Joint Committee on  
Ending Homelessness

*Co-Chair*

Study Group to Study  
Economic Stability

*Vice Chair*

Washington County Delegation



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3321 • 301-858-3321  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3321  
Mike.McKay@house.state.md.us

*District Office*  
100 North Mechanic Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
240-362-7040

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay", is positioned above the printed name.

Delegate Mike McKay  
District 1C  
Allegany and Washington Counties

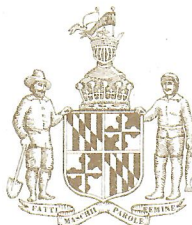
PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
*Legislative District 2*  
Washington County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education, Business and Administration

Pensions



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 416  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3903 • 301-858-3903  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903  
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

*District Address*  
P.O. Box 3716  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
240-313-3929

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

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The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

I urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman



May 3, 2022



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

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The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

**Sandra J.  
Hamilton**

Digitally signed by Sandra J. Hamilton  
DN: cn=Sandra J. Hamilton, o=Berkeley County  
Development Authority, ou,  
email=shamilton@developmentauthority.com,  
c=US  
Date: 2022.05.03 12:45:24 -04'00'



# CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Emily Keller

Mayor

One East Franklin Street • Hagerstown, MD 21740

E-mail: [mayor@hagerstownmd.org](mailto:mayor@hagerstownmd.org)

Telephone: 301.766.4161 • TDD: 301.797.6617 • Website: [www.hagerstownmd.org](http://www.hagerstownmd.org)

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of our City Council, I write to offer the City of Hagerstown's full support for Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for funding the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and Rural Surface Transportation programs.

This project will improve operational capacity and address critical safety concerns. I-81 operating efficiently and predictably is critical to our economy, both for local freight service but also employee commuting. Hardly a day goes by without a serious accident in our congested section of I-81.

The connection of I-70 and I-81 is vital to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new and retain existing businesses. In addition to supporting the thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards. We are very excited about the *NorthPoint Development* being completed along Wesel Boulevard. The development includes 2.2 million square feet of new warehouse construction (four buildings) and a \$139 million investment with the possibility of 1,500 jobs. Last year, we invested \$6 million as a private/public partnership to reconstruct Wesel Boulevard to serve this development and virtually all of this new commerce will use I-81 via Halfway Boulevard.



**The Honorable Pete Buttigieg**  
**May 13, 2022**  
**Page 2**

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, often resulting in a heavy congestion and sluggish traffic flow once you enter Maryland from Pennsylvania or West Virginia. This negatively affecting the movement of freight in a corridor estimated to carry 12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

We appreciate your consideration of the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project and Washington County's request for funding. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

**THE CITY OF HAGERSTOWN**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emily Keller".

Emily Keller  
Mayor

*c: Hagerstown City Council*  
*Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator*  
*Rodney Tissue, City Engineer*



**CITY OF MARTINSBURG**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
232 NORTH QUEEN STREET • P.O. BOX 828  
MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 25402  
PHONE (304) 264-2140

May 4, 2022



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

  
Kevin Knowles  
Mayor of Martinsburg

Cc: City Council  
Mark S. Baldwin, City Manager

Andy P. Blake, Assistant City Manager  
Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO Executive Director



**Franklin County Planning Department**  
272 North Second Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
Phone: 717-261-3855  
Fax: 717-264-8667  
Email: [planning@franklincountypa.gov](mailto:planning@franklincountypa.gov)

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

*Steven J. Thomas*

Steven Thomas  
Franklin County Planning Director



Larry Hogan | Governor  
Boyd Rutherford | Lt. Governor  
R. Michael Gill | Secretary of Commerce  
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to offer the Maryland Department of Commerce's full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity, and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs and address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and vital capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects freight movement along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. The truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. Federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a stout partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. Federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Gill  
Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

World Trade Center | 401 East Pratt Street | Baltimore, MD 21202 | 410-767-6301 | 888-246-6736

[commerce.maryland.gov](https://commerce.maryland.gov)





# Washington County, MD

HAGERSTOWN REGIONAL AIRPORT

RICHARD A. HENSON FIELD

COMMERCIAL & COMMUTER AIRSERVICE | AVIATION MAINTENANCE | AIRSIDE SERVICES

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections INFRA Grant Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections application.

The project will greatly improve the travel route for passengers that utilize I-81 to visit the Hagerstown Regional Airport. Incidents along the interstate significantly delay business and leisure travelers on their way to the airport. Passengers have said they were delayed in heavy traffic on I-81 and could not make their flight due to incidents along the corridor. Even passengers traveling south on I-81 from Pennsylvania into Maryland have been caught in traffic caused by an accident near the West Virginia border. Widening and reconstruction of interchanges along I-81 will enhance the ability of the airport to market to customers and promote the ease of access to the airport.

Thank you for your consideration of the INFRA grant application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 240.313.2252.

Sincerely,

Andrew Eshleman, P.E.  
Acting Airport Director



May 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grant Program – I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections application.

The I-81 project will increase operational capacity for the corridor in Maryland, which carries as much as 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product each year. Truck volume will only increase with the significant increase in logistic companies opening in the region. The highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region to serve essential businesses. This project will not only position the corridor to serve as a national asset for freight movement but will support thousands of existing jobs and promote additional opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent opportunity zones.

Thank you for your consideration of the INFRA grant application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 240.313.2289.

Sincerely,

Susan Grimes, Director

Jeffrey A. Cline, *President*  
Terry L. Baker, *Vice President*  
Krista L. Hart, *Clerk*



Wayne K. Keefer  
Randall A. Wagner  
Charles A. Burkett

100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740-4735 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201  
WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, I write to offer my full support for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project and application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. The project will greatly improve mobility, capacity, and safety along a designated freight corridor in Maryland.

The I-81 corridor has one of the highest truck crash rates in Maryland with congestion that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year and the Maryland portion alone carries more than 20,000 trucks per day. Truck volume will only increase with the numerous warehousing, distribution, and logistic companies opening along the corridor in Washington County and nearby Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs, and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in this Appalachian region of the country.

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland appreciates your favorable consideration of this application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the Maryland Department of Transportation, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region as indicated by the letters of support included with the application.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Jeffrey A. Cline, President





May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of AAA Club Alliance, I write to offer the auto club's support for the joint application by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top one percent of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. With more logistic companies opening in the region, truck volume will only increase. The highway is also an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around the country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy, supporting thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promoting additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application, which reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ragina C. Ali".

Ragina C. Ali  
Public & Government Affairs Manager  
AAA Club Alliance/AAA Mid-Atlantic, Maryland



**A.C.&T. Co., Inc.**

11535 Hopewell Rd. • P.O. Box 4217

Hagerstown, Maryland 21741-4217

1-800-458-3835 • 301-582-2700 • Fax 301-582-5736

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May 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections:** Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The I-81 Corridor is critical to the viability of AC&T. Our company employs approximately 700 people locally. Since 1959, we have distributed petroleum products, propane, and various rentals including portable toilets, containers and trailers. Affiliates also develop and lease real estate to companies such as ABF,



FedEx Freight, JLG, Estes, Saia, and XPO. All of these companies are extremely dependent on the I-81 corridor. These companies offer 1,000's of good paying jobs. The positive impact to the local economy is significant.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A.C. & T. Co., Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Fulton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Fulton  
President



May 11, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth,  
Equitable Job Access and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I'm writing to offer our full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address the critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The Bowman Group of companies is in a unique position to support this project.

The Bowman Group of companies based in Williamsport, MD; and founded and owned by me, include D.M. Bowman, Inc., Bowman Logistics and Bowman Development Corp, among others. D.M Bowman Inc, in business for 64 years, is one of the largest privately-owned trucking companies in Maryland with approximately 300 tractors in the fleet. They have a strong reputation for safety, with the latest award of winning the ATA National Truck Safety Contest in 9 separate categories. Also, for energy efficiency and environmental performance being awarded EPA's 2020 SmartWay Excellence Award. Our diversification includes Bowman Logistics, a 3PL company, and Bowman Development, a large real estate development company with many past, current and planned future projects on the I-81 and Halfway Blvd. corridor, including distribution warehouses, truck stops and private truck parking.

The I-81 corridor is extremely critical to our trucking and warehouse customers. When there is a traffic blockage or accident, we all suffer, including the employees. Future growth for us and

Bowman Development Corp.

May 11, 2022

our customers depends on the widening of I-81. As a company that puts the safety of our drivers at the forefront, the unsafe conditions of I-81 are a real concern that will only get worse without this investment. We also depend on the efficiency of the interstate system to best serve our customers.

As a family of companies, we are constantly looking for ways to partner with others in order to better our community. We are excited to be a partner with MDOT on an Electric Vehicle (EV) truck charging pilot opportunity as part of this grant. If awarded the grant, we are committed to working with MDOT to test and demonstrate EV truck charging at our locations along I-81 and Halfway Blvd. As the regional truck EV fleet grows, these lessons can be shared with the US Department of Transportation and other interested parties, including those of us in industry. As an EV Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. An EV truck charging pilot will strengthen the commitment to EV technology in this corridor as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The efficiency of I-81 is critical to support this and similar programs.

A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald M Bowman", written in a cursive style.

Donald M Bowman

May 16, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,


The Washington County Community Action Council (CAC) is a nonprofit with the mission of addressing barriers of low income households that are striving for self-sufficiency. We serve over 10,000 clients each year with a variety of programs including energy assistance, eviction prevention, housing counseling, mediation, food pantry and transportation. Our transportation services are critical for low income residents that do not have transportation to get to work. We currently run a free shuttle from downtown Hagerstown to Hopewell Road (parallels) I-81 for employment purposes. The Hopewell Express is offered seven days a week, 24 hours each day to support businesses such as Fed Ex, Staples, Home Depot to mention a few.


CAC is constantly looking for opportunities to expand our transportation services because we know the low income community depends on it. If the expansion of the I-81 corridor is funded, CAC could provide a shuttle service to get low income workers from downtown Hagerstown to the job site. This would enable low income households to become financially self-sufficient and not reliant upon state and federal assistance.

Respectfully submitted




**Monday - Friday DAYTIME Schedule**

| <br><br><b>A<br/>FREE<br/>Employment<br/>Transportation<br/>Program</b> | Stop Change           | Stop Change                                       |  |                                     |                |          |          |                           |                |                                     |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | 29 E. Antietam Street | ***E. Antietam St. between Cannon Ave. & King St. | 130 W. Franklin St. (Christ Reformed Church) | 1000 W. Wash. St. (County Commuter) | Tractor Supply | Fed Ex   | Staples  | PetSmart Home Depot Lenox | Tractor Supply | 1000 W. Wash. St. (County Commuter) |
|  | N/A                   | N/A   | N/A  | 5:15 AM                             | 5:25 AM        | 5:30 AM  | 5:35 AM  | 5:40 AM                   | 5:45 AM        | 5:55 AM                             |
|  | 6:04 AM               | 6:08 AM   | 6:10 AM                                      | 6:15 AM                             | 6:25 AM        | 6:30 AM  | 6:35 AM  | 6:40 AM                   | 6:45 AM        | 6:50 AM                             |
|  | 7:04 AM               | 7:08 AM   | 7:10 AM                                      | 7:15 AM                             | 7:25 AM        | 7:30 AM  | 7:35 AM  | 7:40 AM                   | 7:45 AM        | 7:50 AM                             |
|  | 8:04 AM               | 8:08 AM   | 8:10 AM                                      | 8:15 AM                             | 8:25 AM        | 8:30 AM  | 8:35 AM  | 8:40 AM                   | 8:45 AM        | 8:50 AM                             |
|  | 9:04 AM               | 9:08 AM   | 9:10 AM                                      | 9:15 AM                             | 9:25 AM        | 9:30 AM  | 9:35 AM  | 9:40 AM                   | 9:45 AM        | 9:50 AM                             |
|  | 10:04 AM              | 10:08 AM  | 10:10 AM                                     | 10:15 AM                            | 10:25 AM       | 10:30 AM | 10:35 AM | 10:40 AM                  | 10:45 AM       | 10:50 AM                            |
|  | 11:04 AM              | 11:08 AM  | 11:10 AM                                     | 11:15 AM                            | 11:25 AM       | 11:30 AM | 11:35 AM | 11:40 AM                  | 11:45 AM       | 11:50 AM                            |
|  | 12:04 PM              | 12:08 PM  | 12:10 PM                                     | 12:15 PM                            | 12:25 PM       | 12:30 PM | 12:35 PM | 12:40 PM                  | 12:45 PM       | 12:50 PM                            |
|  | 1:04 PM               | 1:08 PM   | 1:10 PM                                      | 1:15 PM                             | 1:25 PM        | 1:30 PM  | 1:35 PM  | 1:40 PM                   | 1:45 PM        | 1:50 PM                             |
|  | 2:04 PM               | 2:08 PM   | 2:10 PM                                      | 2:15 PM                             | 2:25 PM        | 2:30 PM  | 2:35 PM  | 2:40 PM                   | 2:45 PM        | 2:50 PM                             |
|  | 3:04 PM               | 3:08 PM   | 3:10 PM                                      | 3:15 PM                             | 3:25 PM        | 3:30 PM  | 3:35 PM  | 3:40 PM                   | 3:45 PM        | 3:50 PM                             |
|  | 4:04 PM               | 4:08 PM   | 4:10 PM                                      | 4:15 PM                             | 4:25 PM        | 4:30 PM  | 4:35 PM  | 4:40 PM                   | 4:45 PM        | 4:50 PM                             |
|  | 5:04 PM               | 5:08 PM   | 5:10 PM                                      | 5:15 PM                             | 5:25 PM        | 5:30 PM  | 5:35 PM  | 5:40 PM                   | 5:45 PM        | 5:50 PM                             |
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| 7:04 PM  | 7:08 PM               | 7:10 PM   | 7:15 PM                                      | 7:25 PM                             | 7:30 PM        | 7:35 PM  | 7:40 PM  | 7:45 PM                   | 7:50 PM        |                                     |
| 8:04 PM  | 8:08 PM               | 8:10 PM   | 8:15 PM                                      | 8:25 PM                             | 8:30 PM        | 8:35 PM  | 8:40 PM  | 8:45 PM                   | 8:50 PM        |                                     |
| 9:04 PM  | 9:08 PM               | 9:10 PM   | 9:15 PM                                      | 9:25 PM                             | 9:30 PM        | 9:35 PM  | 9:40 PM  | 9:45 PM                   | 9:50 PM        |                                     |

  
2/18/2021

For information on delays and closings please call the Transportation Dept. at CAC @ 301-797-4161 ext.107

### Monday - Friday **OVERNIGHT** Schedule

|  | Stop Change   | Stop Change  | Final drop off is Saturday @ 8:04 AM (no pickups) |                                      |                |          |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|  | 29 E. Antietam Street   | ***E. Antietam St. between Cannon Ave. & King St.    | 130 W. Franklin St. (Christ Reformed Church)      | 1000 W. Wash. St. (County Communter) | Tractor Supply | Fed Ex   | Staples | PetSmart Home Depot Lenox | Tractor Supply | 1000 W. Wash. St. (County Communter) |  |
|  |   |  |   |                                      |                | 9:30 PM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 10:04 PM  | 10:08 PM   | 10:10 PM  | 10:15 PM                             |                | 10:30 PM |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 11:04 PM  | 11:08 PM   | 11:10 PM  | 11:15 PM                             |                | 11:30 PM |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 12:04 AM  | 12:08 AM   | 12:10 AM  | 12:15 AM                             |                | 12:30 AM |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 1:04 AM   | 1:08 AM  | 1:10 AM   | 1:15 AM                              |                | 1:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 2:04 AM   | 2:08 AM  | 2:10 AM   | 2:15 AM                              |                | 2:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 3:04 AM   | 3:08 AM  | 3:10 AM   | 3:15 AM                              |                | 3:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 4:04 AM   | 4:08 AM  | 4:10 AM   | 4:15 AM                              |                | 4:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
|  | 5:04 AM   | 5:08 AM  | 5:10 AM   | 5:15 AM                              |                | 5:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
| Saturday ONLY →→→  | 6:04 AM   | 6:08 AM  | 6:10 AM   | 6:15 AM                              |                | 6:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
| Saturday ONLY →→→  | 7:04 AM   | 7:08 AM  | 7:10 AM   | 7:15 AM                              |                | 7:30 AM  |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
| Saturday ONLY →→→  | *8:04 AM  | THIS IS DROP OFF ONLY - NO PICK UPS WILL BE ALLOWED! |   |                                      |                |          |         |                           |                |                                      |  |
| 2/18/2021  | For information on delays and closings please call the Transportation Dept. at CAC @ 301-797-4161 ext. 107. |  |   |                                      |                |          |         |                           |                |                                      |  |

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Anton T. Dahbura  
Partner  
Dahbura Family LP  
18223 Shawley Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
atd@hublabels.com

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Fiserv Support for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am reaching out to let you know that Fiserv fully supports Washington County and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration in their application for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This Project will improve operational capacity and mobility in the Maryland I-81 corridor and will address critical safety concerns for regional travelers – many of whom are Fiserv employees and clients.

Fiserv's facility in Hagerstown, Maryland, houses more than 1500 employees. The facility sits on Maryland Parkway and is accessed via exit 6 from the Maryland portion of I-81. The majority of our Hagerstown employees – who commute from the Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia tristate area – use I-81.

Currently, the I-81 corridor in Maryland does not have enough lanes to meet the travel and access demands for the region. This negatively affects our Hagerstown facility employees and clients, who experience bottlenecks and delays. The heavy traffic and congestion cause frequent accidents, which are disruptive to our business. As proposed, the Project would widen I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70 to six lanes, which would reduce congestion, increase safety, and boost the regional economy.

We appreciate your consideration of Washington County's request for INFRA grant funding for this Project. The Project represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and local businesses. We believe the Project is necessary to minimize the traffic delays for our Hagerstown employees and reduce safety concerns for all area travelers.

Sincerely,

*Susan Cvijanovich*  
Susan Cvijanovich  
Vice President  
Fiserv  
Hagerstown MD

*Karen Beck*  
Karen Beck  
Senior Vice President  
Fiserv  
Hagerstown MD



1900 Wayne Road  
Chambersburg, PA 17202

(717) 263-8282  
FAX (717) 263-0662  
[www.fcadc.com](http://www.fcadc.com)

May 11, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.



Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
May 11, 2022  
Page 2

The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



L. Michael Ross  
President

C: FCADC Board of Directors  
Congressman Dr. John Joyce, 13<sup>th</sup> District-PA  
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey  
U.S. Senator Bob Casey  
Steve Thomas, Director, Franklin County Planning Department  
James Kercheval, Executive Director, Greater Hagerstown Committee



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 16, 2022

**Subject: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety.**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, one of thirteen heritage areas certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, support the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81. Maryland has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. We hope the application will be fully funded.

Our interest stems primarily from the economic opportunity associated with heritage tourism. It makes sense to invite in safe, attractive exits for the 80,000 travelers that move through Washington County on I-80 each day. We want them to get off the highway to visit places like, Antietam National Battlefield, Chesapeake and Ohio National Historic Park (new headquarters to open soon off I-81 at Williamsport), the Washington County Fine Arts Museum, and the many other Hagerstown-based attractions cultural and heritage attractions. World renowned natural resources and recreation opportunities, such as the Appalachian Trail, are also accessed by way of I-80.

Working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, my organization is dedicated to helping the community sustain and grow aspects of the economy that link to our historical, cultural and natural resources. A recently released study make is clear that our efforts are working. We know that the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (which also included Frederick and Carroll Counties in Maryland) has an annual impact (based on 2019 data) of: \$450.2 million in economic contribution, 6,376 jobs supported and sustained, and \$60.3 million in state and local tax revenue. Clearly, investment that helps travelers decide to stop and stay in our area realizes a significant return. Without a doubt, an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant makes good sense for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection.

Please help improve I-81, which will allow the community to design safe and attractive exits that invite travelers in to explore all we have to offer. Particularly as we emerge from the pandemic, this work will be critical to the tourism economy.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Scott Shatto  
Executive Director

**CARROLL  
COUNTY**  
HAMPSTEAD  
MANCHESTER  
MOUNT AIRY  
NEW WINDSOR  
SYKESVILLE  
TANEYTOWN  
UNION BRIDGE  
WESTMINSTER

**FREDERICK  
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WILLIAMSPORT



WE  
THINK  
DIFFERENTLY

May 10, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

As a business owner that operates a manufacturing facility which is directly off the I-81 exit 9, I strongly support this project. It appears every week there is a back up or accident causing our employees to be put in danger. The frequency of issues has even resulted in a special attendance policy related to delays caused during their commute on I-81. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dahbura", enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval border.

Thomas Dahbura  
President

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**3500 Transportation Research Plaza (0536)**

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

540/231- 4008 Fax: 540/231-1555

[www.i-81coalition.com](http://www.i-81coalition.com)

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of the I-81 Corridor Coalition to affirm our full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity, address mobility needs, and address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets its original system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane-mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will likely increase as more logistic companies move their operations to the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to enhance transportation efficiency and mitigate climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.



**VirginiaTech**

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Alden", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew (Andy) Alden  
Executive Director





May 3rd, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth E. Webster', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Elizabeth Webster, President & CEO of the Martinsburg-Berkeley Chamber of Commerce



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May 18, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. It also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and equitable access to jobs, and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70, improving regional freight mobility.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

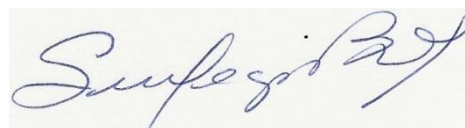
The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County, and the private sector to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,  


Marco V. Avila, P.E.  
Chairman of the Board



Sila Alegret-Bartel  
Western Region Chapter Director



May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the I-81 widening project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our rural, Appalachian region. Additionally, it will unlock business development opportunities and create equitable access to jobs. The widening of I-81 is incredibly important to the future movement of freight and commerce through Washington County, Maryland, and the East Coast. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new and retain existing businesses.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Receipt of this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 Corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades.

The widening of I-81 will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. In addition to supporting thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and increase freight access and connectivity while helping reduce traffic congestion and safety hazards.

We appreciate your strong consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between Maryland, Washington County and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project.

Sincerely,

Mary D. Kane  
President & CEO  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce



# Maryland Motor Truck Association



May 16, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to offer our full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

*Louis Campion*

Louis Campion  
President & CEO

**About Maryland Motor Truck Association:** Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile or type of operation.

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May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We the members of the Maryland Transportation Commission write to offer our full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.


The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I 81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I 81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

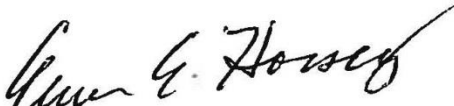
We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I 81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

  
James Albert Calderwood  
Chairman

  
Camillo DiCamillo  
Ex-Officio Member


  
Jennifer Hill Leineweber  
Member

  
Elmer E. Horsey  
Ex-Officio Member


  
Barbara Richman Kahn  
Ex-Officio Member


  
Lisa Weimin Liu  
Member

  
Rizwan Siddiqi  
Member


  
Gregory I. Snook  
Ex-Officio Member


  
William Callahan  
Ex-Officio Member

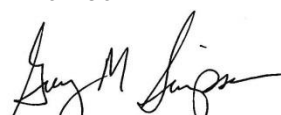
  
Debra Farrar-Dyke  
Member


  
Thomas Hampton  
Member

  
Natasha Iheme  
Member

  
George Littrell  
Member

  
Ben Neil  
Member

  
Gary Simpson  
Ex-Officio Member

  
Mario VillaSanta  
Ex-Officio Member



**Meritus Health**  
11116 Medical Campus Rd  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
301.790.8000

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections:** Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

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The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maulik Joshi".

Maulik S. Joshi, Dr.P.H.  
President and CEO  
Meritus Health



May 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

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460 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt 51K, New York, New York 10036-6812  
Phone: 917.865.1500  
Email: michael@langer.co

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Langer", written over the printed name.

Michael Langer  
CEO of Langer Company



May 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

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Facility Address: 18450 Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland 21742  
Office Address: 460 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt. 51K, New York, New York 10036-6812  
Phone: 917.865.1500  
Email: michael@langer.co

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Langer', written in a cursive style.

Michael Langer, Owner/Manager  
New Heights Industrial Park



May 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. A vital part of the job for Potomac Edison's 400 Maryland employees is to provide safe, reliable electric service to nearly 275,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in our service area throughout the state. When electric service is disrupted to our customers, we need to respond as quickly as possible to make repairs and restore power. Heavy freight truck volumes that exceed the capacity of I-81 often lead to snarls and crashes that markedly slow our response times, sometimes resulting in longer service interruptions. Traffic tie-ups in Maryland may also hamper the movement of southbound utility crews and materials to our Potomac Edison West Virginia service territory, where we have tens of thousands of customers along the I-81 corridor.

The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity

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We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda L. Moss". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Linda" being the most prominent part.

Linda L. Moss

President, Maryland Operations

# VALLEY MALL

A PREIT® PROPERTY

17301 Valley Mall Road  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
Tel: 301.582.0701 • Fax: 301.582.1617

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttegieg:

I am writing on behalf of over one hundred retail and restaurant establishments, to offer my full support for Washington County's application for the Infrastructure for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America and the Rural Surface Transportation grant programs. We understand this will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our region. This improvement will assist the traffic flow to the hotels, retailers and restaurants on and around our area.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the movement of traffic in a corridor. The current status of the I-81 corridor negatively affects the retail and restaurant sales in the I-81/Halfway Boulevard area that cannot be reclaimed. When an accident occurs on I-81 in Maryland, it causes sales to drop at a **17-28%** rate for the day, depending on the length of time the accident back logs traffic.

The Valley Mall area draws patrons from four states and beyond, all of which travel the I-81 corridor. Pennsylvania and West Virginia make up almost 53%, more than half, of the patrons to the Halfway Blvd restaurants, retailers, and Valley Mall. This is confirmed by zip code collecting during sales transactions. These consumers spend their disposable income here in Maryland giving us additional tax revenue.

Yearly sales generated by Valley Mall alone, totals more than \$160 million annually, not to mention the other hotels and restaurants adjacent to our property. The improvements to traffic flow will help from deterring these patrons from coming over state lines to enjoy our amenities.

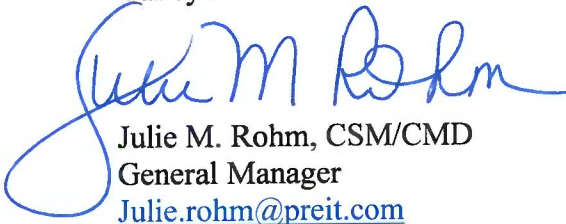
The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. This connection will enable the employees of several businesses from Route 63 area, to easily access Halfway Boulevard restaurants during the lunch hour. This should increase sales by about 5% daily, giving more tax revenue to the state of Maryland. The extension of Halfway Blvd to Route 63 will also give the thousands of employees already working on Halfway Boulevard a secondary means to get to work during high traffic times. Both road improvements will help the area in attracting new businesses and jobs.

The crossroads of I-70 and I-81 are a pivotal travel change point. At Valley Mall we offer six multi-brand electric charging stations. We are eager to expand our offerings, however until traffic flow can improve; the company does not see the interest. The expansion of this offering is very important to the other businesses off of this exit as it allows for charging while patronizing the retail, hotel and restaurants in the area.

Interstate 81 is a main corridor for travelers coming from Canada. Monthly traffic from Canada off of Halfway Blvd alone currently ranges from 14 to 18%. These travelers have been made aware that the Halfway Boulevard exit is approximately halfway from Ontario Canada to Florida. The local Washington County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, has been promoting the "Halfway There" campaign for five years. As a result of their efforts, we have seen increased traffic yearly from Canadians.

We appreciate your consideration of the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. We understand this will improve operational capacity in Washington County. This application represents the strong partnership of Washington County, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement this priority project. A federal investment will help ensure that I-81 remains a safely traveled national asset.

Sincerely,  
Valley Mall



Julie M. Rohm, CSM/CMD  
General Manager  
[Julie.rohm@preit.com](mailto:Julie.rohm@preit.com)

# Visit HAGERSTOWN

& Washington County, Maryland

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 16, 2022

**Subject: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

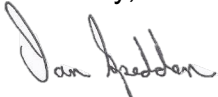
The Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) supports the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81. Maryland has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for an I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. The CVB supports this application and encourages its approval and funding.

Much has been stated about the need for improvements on Interstate 81 in Washington County Maryland. Safety is the highest priority concern, reliability, convenience, efficiency, supporting industry and generating commerce are also valid justifications and urgent needs. A failed highway puts us and many of our endeavors at risk including travel and tourism. Hagerstown and Washington County have a robust travel and tourism economy, National and State Parks are big attractions. We have recently enhanced our promotion of Underground Railroad sites, The John Brown Raid Headquarters, The Doleman Black Heritage Museum, and our historic African American residential district The Johnathan Street Corridor. All these Washington County destinations can be accessed from I-81.

Traveling a short distance or the length of the east coast 80,000 vehicles pass through Washington County on I-81 each day. The Convention and Visitors Bureau works hard to lure a percentage of those 80,000 vehicles into some of the 2,200 hotels rooms that support our tourism trade. Last year \$40 million was spent on lodging in Washington County more than \$109,000/day much of it left here by travelers on I-81. In Washington County 8 to 10% percent of the workforce is employed in tourism many along the I-81 corridor. We lure travelers off of I-81 by promoting the most efficient and attractive exits that a traveler could find. Quality hotels, dozens of restaurants, fuel, fast food, and an abundance of quality retail shopping opportunities serve tourists very well. The Convention and Visitors Bureau is delivering 2.75 million ads to travelers on I-81 in annually between Harrisburg PA and Woodstock VA. If you're traveling in this area and search on your smart phone or tablet for amenities our ads appear.

We need to improve I-81 and exploit it to grow our tourism economy. We need to design safe and attractive exits that invite travelers in to explore all we have to offer.

Sincerely,



Dan Spedden, President

**Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau**

16 Public Square, Hagerstown MD 21740 | 301-791-3246 | [www.visithagerstown.com](http://www.visithagerstown.com)



May 19, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Chairman of Volvo Group North America (VGNA) and President of Mack Trucks, I write to offer my full support for the joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for grant funding for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections project from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant programs. This vital project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along a designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region. The project provides equitable access to jobs and critical capacity and connections to support regional distribution centers in the supply chain.

One of the Volvo Group's largest facilities in North America, the Volvo Group powertrain production plant in Hagerstown, is the heart of Mack and Volvo trucks, Prevost coaches and Volvo buses, developing and manufacturing heavy-duty diesel engines, transmissions, and axles for these brands in North America. In 2020, Hagerstown began manufacturing electric powertrain components for newly released models of battery electric trucks. The site celebrated 60 years of manufacturing excellence in 2021 and employs approximately 1,500 people. VGNA is committed to its future in Hagerstown and has invested about \$350 million in the Hagerstown facility since 2001; this includes ongoing upgrade/expansion projects worth about \$70 million, which will increase employment opportunities in the community.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. The I-81 Corridor is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only increase with the boom in logistic companies opening in the region. Additionally, the highway is an essential connection in the nation's supply chain, enabling the delivery of critical items throughout the region and around our country.

The project will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. A federal investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in a four-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. Further, as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready

corridor, I-81 connects to a network of EV charging locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia as green technology is advanced in the region to combat climate change. The project will increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We urge you to favorably consider this joint application for the I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections Project. The application reflects a strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County, and private partners throughout the region. A federal investment in this project will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Weissburg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" being more prominent than the last name "Weissburg".

Martin Weissburg

Chairman, Volvo Group North America

President, Mack Trucks

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 businesses and 40,000 employees, I am writing to offer our full support for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project, a joint application of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Washington County for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. Among other benefits, the project will help to reduce VMT's (Vehicle Miles Traveled) and it will provide new and improved freight access to underserved communities, increasing access to goods and job opportunities, for those underserved communities. In addition, this project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns, along this designated freight corridor in Maryland's rural, Appalachian region.

The I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck that negatively affects the movement of freight along this nationally significant corridor. I-81 is estimated to carry 12 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top 1% of truck volume by lane mile in the entire nation. Truck volume will only continue to increase with the boom in logistic companies opening up in the region. Further, this has proven to be critical this past year during the COVID-19 health crisis with getting essential items delivered throughout the region and around our nation.

The widening of I-81 from MD 68 to beyond I-70, done in conjunction with the extension of Halfway Boulevard, will be an enormous boost to the regional economy. An investment in this project will support thousands of existing jobs already in the corridor and promote additional employment opportunities, all of which are accessible to the most challenged populations in the quad-state region and adjacent Opportunity Zones. This project will also enable the development of new business parks, increase freight access and connectivity, expand critically needed truck parking, and reduce traffic congestion, travel times, air pollution, and safety hazards.

We appreciate your consideration of this joint application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This application represents the strong partnership between the state of Maryland, Washington County Government, and many members of the local private sector, to leverage all available resources to complete this priority project. A federal investment in our community will help ensure that I-81 remains a national asset for freight movement for decades to come – safely and responsibly moving critical goods and services around our nation.

Sincerely,



Paul Frey, IOM  
President and CEO



- Washington County Government
- City of Hagerstown
- Hagerstown Community College
- Washington Co. Free Library
- Town of Williamsport

- The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.
- Hagerstown-Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Visit Hagerstown (Local Convention & Visitor's Bureau)
- CHIEF (Hagerstown-Washington Co. Industrial Foundation)

Washington County Community Coalition Lobbyist: John Favazza, Esquire Mannis Canning & Associate. 410.263.7882 [jfavazza@maniscanning.com](mailto:jfavazza@maniscanning.com)

May 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: I-81 Freight Capacity and Connections: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Washington County Community Coalition (WCCC) was formed in 2005 to lobby MD State Legislators and various federal agencies on issues that are important to the community. The WCCC brings an issue forward only when it has the unanimous approval of the partners. The WCCC is funded through the financial commitment of the partners. WCCC partners include Washington County Government, The City of Hagerstown, Hagerstown Community College, Washington County Library System, The Town of Williamsport, Visit Hagerstown (Convention & Visitors Bureau), Washington County Chamber of Commerce, CHIEF (Washington County Industrial Foundation), and The Greater Hagerstown Committee.

The WCCC strongly supports the effort to improve the Maryland portion of Interstate Highway 81. This project has been on our priority list since our inception 15 years ago. Maryland has submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection: Providing Opportunities for Economic Growth, Equitable Job Access, and Improved Safety to assist in the funding of this critical infrastructure improvement. The WCCC supports this application and encourages its approval and funding.

Much has been stated about the need for improvements on Interstate 81 in Washington County Maryland. Safety is the highest priority concern, reliability, convenience, efficiency, supporting industry and generating commerce are also valid justifications and urgent needs. A failed highway puts us and many of our endeavors at risk including warehouse distribution, manufacturing, ecommerce fulfillment, our growing aviation industries, and travel and tourism.

The WCCC urges the acceptance and the funding of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application for I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection:

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Frey".

Paul Frey, *Managing Partner for The Washington County Community Coalition*